

Abingdon Community Council Meeting
July 22, 2013

There were 3 members (C. David Copenhaver, Cynthia Hergenbahn, Joan Hamilton) and 10 guests in attendance including: Dion Guthrie (Harford County Councilman), Jamie Meier (Aid to County Councilwoman Mary Ann Lisanti), Capt. Jon Krass (Harford County Sheriff's Office), Art Helton (former State Senator), Sharon Lipford (Deputy Director Harford County Gov. Department of Community Services)

The next meeting will be August 26, 2013 at 6:30 at the Abingdon Public Library.

- The meeting was called to order at 6:32 P.M. by Cynthia Hergenbahn, Chairperson.
- Not in Attendance: County Councilman Joe Woods or his Aid; Mary Ann Lisanti; Andrew Tress, Aid for Billy Boniface
- Captain Jon Krass: Harford County Sheriff's Representative
 - The Edgewood initiative seems to be working; it's been in effect for about 3 weeks.
 - There have been NO cuts in service to other areas as a result of the initiative.
 - TASK Force will probably be developed to continue dealing with the Edgewood area.
 - Crime Analysis Reports were distributed for sectors 30 & 40: robbery, burglary, and theft are down in both sectors.
 - Cedarday community has asked for officials to take another look at traffic issues.
 - Donna Copenhaver asked about the anticipated effects caused by the School Board changes to bus routes and if additional crossing guards would be needed. Response: When large groups of students congregate, some issues may arise. Crossing guard needs will be evaluated by Youth Services and Special Operations.
 - Joan Hamilton asked about students walking to the Patterson Mill complex. Response: Students will not need to cross Rt. 924 because people living on the west side go to the Bel Air complex.
- County Council Updates:
 - Jamie Meier:
 - As a result of the ACC letter, County Councilwoman Mary Ann Lisanti introduced a bill to apply \$60,000 to a study along Rt. 924 in order to more holistically address traffic/pedestrian needs without digging up the road with each individual project. The County Council approved this bill.
 - MedStar project was approved on July 11.
 - Walmart project still contains deficiencies and has not yet been approved.
 - Dion Guthrie:
 - Donna Copenhaver asked if the County planned to grant Walmart a variance due to the lack of parking spaces as required by square footage of the store. Response: Not sure but he would check on it.
 - John Hamilton asked was there going to be a bill to require new specs on future large area stores. Response: There is something in the works for the fall.
 - Storm water management committee has been formed and has met. Nothing to report as yet.
 - Redner's has forced meats and seafood out of the Farmer's Market at the Joppa Farm Shopping Center because of the no compete contract they have.
- Sharon Lipford: Deputy Director Harford County Gov. Department of Community Services
 - Distributed copies of a PowerPoint presentation
 - Purpose of Dept. of Comm. Services is to meet needs of youth, seniors, persons with disabilities, and those struggling to overcome addiction
 - Divisions include: Aging, Community Development, Human Relations, Office Drug Control Policy, Transit Link
 - Commissions include: Disabilities, Human Relations, Mediation, Women, Youth
 - Boards include: Aging, Fact-It, Local Management Board (LMB)
 - In the fall, they will be creating a 2 year TASK Force to address the aging population in Harford County.

- Harford County has the 3rd highest overdose rate in the state, therefore work continues on prescription drug take backs.
- Donna Copenhaver asked if the Link Bus hours could be extended on evenings when William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School has PTA meetings, parent conferences, and special presentations in order to allow parents from the Edgewood and Abingdon areas that do not have transportation the opportunity to participate and support their children's school. Response: That is something that we can look into trying. Cynthia Hergenbahn suggested that ACC, in conjunction with the nonprofit PTA, write a grant to try to help defray some of the additional cost.

- Announcements: Presented by Cynthia Hergenbahn
 - Pairings Bistro, Open Door Café, and Laripin (Havre de Grace) are going to be part of Healthy Harford and display calories on their menus.
 - August 3rd, Pairings Bistro will have a Healthy Harford Menu for a fundraiser to benefit the early childhood initiative of YMCA. TIME 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm, COST \$50

• Reminder: August 11-17 will be shop MD tax free week when clothes and shoes for school students can be purchased tax free.

- New Business:
 - Art Helton suggested that ACC forward the position paper we sent to the County Council and to the County Executive to the State Secretary of Transportation, Jim Smith. This is the paper sent with the concerns we have about the lack of coordination between development projects and the effects on traffic, public safety, and the quality of life of Abingdon residents.
 - Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm by Cynthia Hergenbahn, Chairperson.

Minutes submitted by Donna Copenhaver